

the only community located in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge, supports coastal plain development; and

Whereas the state will ensure the continued health and productivity of the Porcupine Caribou herd and the protection of land, water, and wildlife resources during the exploration and development of the coastal plain of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge; and

Whereas coastal plain development could provide hundreds of thousands of jobs and billions of dollars in government revenue, and could contribute billions of dollars to the nation's economy; and

Whereas many national groups may argue against the development of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge gas reserves because there is no vehicle to bring the gas to market; be it

Resolved, That the Alaska Legislature supports Alaska's role in providing this nation with a major portion of its domestic oil and encourages the United States Congress to pass S. 2214, a bill opening the coastal plain of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge to responsible exploration, development, and production of its oil and gas resources; and be it further

Resolved, That oil exploration and development activity be conducted in a manner that protects the wildlife and the environment and utilizes the state's work force to the maximum extent possible; and be it further

Resolved, That the Alaska Legislature opposes any efforts to declare the coastal plain a national monument; and be it further

Resolved, That the Alaska Legislature urges the current leaseholders on the North Slope to make every effort to promptly build a natural gas pipeline to bring Alaska's natural gas to market and thereby avoiding resistance by national organizations that the gas resources in the Alaska National Wildlife Refuge would be stranded.

Copies of this resolution shall be sent to the Honorable Bill Clinton, President of the United States; the Honorable Al Gore, Jr., Vice-President of the United States and President of the U.S. Senate; the Honorable Bruce Babbitt, United States Secretary of the Interior; the Honorable J. Dennis Hastert, Speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives; the Honorable Trent Lott, Majority Leader of the U.S. Senate; the Honorable Ted Stevens and the Honorable Frank Murkowski, U.S. Senators, and the Honorable Don Young, U.S. Representative, members of the Alaska delegation in Congress; and to all other members of the U.S. Senate and the U.S. House of Representatives serving in the 106th United States Congress.

POM-519. A concurrent resolution adopted by the Legislature of the State of Hawaii relative to extending Medicare to prescription drugs for the elderly and disabled; to the Committee on Finance.

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 73

Whereas, outpatient prescription drugs, which are not covered under Medicare, are a substantial out-of-pocket burden for many Medicare beneficiaries, as over one-third of beneficiaries have no coverage for prescription drugs; and

Whereas, it has been argued that because roughly two-thirds of beneficiaries have some type of drug coverage from other sources, a Medicare drug benefit for all beneficiaries is not necessary; and

Whereas, however, recent research has identified many gaps in private drug coverage and the degree of protection it affords; and

Whereas, the Prescription Drug Fairness for Seniors Act (Act) (H.R. 664/S. 731) would allow 39,000,000 Medicare beneficiaries to buy

prescription drugs at up to forty percent of current retail prices; and

Whereas, as of February 10, 2000, 138 House congressional members and 12 Senate congressional members have co-sponsored the Act, making it the most broadly supported drug reform bill in Congress; and

Whereas, this legislation would end price discrimination among prescription drug makers against the elderly and disabled on Medicare who have no or inadequate prescription drug insurance coverage; and

Whereas, a number of states have state-funded programs, separate from Medicare, to assist elderly and disabled individuals to purchase prescription drugs, however, Hawaii is not among these states; now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate of the Twentieth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2000, the House of Representatives concurring, That the United States Congress is urged to support legislation to extend Medicare benefits to include prescription drug coverage for the elderly and disabled; and be it further

Resolved, That certified copies of this Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the President of the Senate of the United States Senate, the Speaker of the United States House of Representatives, each member of Hawaii's Congressional Delegation, the State Director of Health, and the State Director of Human Services.

POM-520. A resolution adopted by the Senate of the Legislature of the State of Hawaii relative to extending Medicare to prescription drugs for the elderly and disabled; to the Committee on Finance.

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 28

Whereas, outpatient prescription drugs, which are not covered under Medicare, are a substantial out-of-pocket burden for many Medicare beneficiaries, as over one-third of beneficiaries have no coverage for prescription drugs; and

Whereas, it has been argued that because roughly two-thirds of beneficiaries have some type of drug coverage from other sources, a Medicare drug benefit for all beneficiaries is not necessary; and

Whereas, however, recent research has identified many gaps in private drug coverage and the degree of protection it affords; and

Whereas, the Prescription Drug Fairness for Seniors Act (Act) (H.R. 664/S. 731) would allow 39,000,000 Medicare beneficiaries to buy prescription drugs at up to forty percent of current retail prices; and

Whereas, as of February 10, 2000, 138 House congressional members and 12 Senate congressional members have co-sponsored the Act, making it the most broadly supported drug reform bill in Congress; and

Whereas, this legislation would end price discrimination among prescription drug makers against the elderly and disabled on Medicare who have no or inadequate prescription drug insurance coverage; and

Whereas, a number of states have state-funded programs, separate from Medicare, to assist elderly and disabled individuals to purchase prescription drugs, however, Hawaii is not among these states; now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate of the Twentieth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2000, That the United States Congress is urged to support legislation to extend Medicare benefits to include prescription drug coverage for the elderly and disabled; and be it further

Resolved, That certified copies of this Resolution be transmitted to the President of the Senate of the United States Senate, the

Speaker of the United States House of Representatives, each member of Hawaii's Congressional Delegation, the State Director of Health, and the State Director of Human Services.

POM-521. A resolution adopted by the Senate of the Legislature of the State of Michigan relative to voluntary, individual, unorganized, and non-mandatory prayer in public schools; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 158

Whereas, the United States of America was founded by men and women with varied religious beliefs and ideals; and

Whereas, The First Amendment to the United States Constitution states that "Congress shall make no laws respecting an establishment of religion or prohibiting the free exercise thereof . . ." which means that the government is prohibited from establishing a state religion. However, no barriers shall be created against the practice of any religion; and

Whereas, The establishment clause of the First Amendment was not drafted to protect Americans from religion, rather, its purpose was clearly to protect Americans from government mandates with respect to religion; and

Whereas, The Michigan Legislature strongly believe that reaffirming a right to voluntary, individual, unorganized, and non-mandated prayer in public schools is an important element of religious choice guaranteed by the Constitution, and will reaffirm those religious rights and beliefs upon which the nation was founded; now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate, That the members of this legislative body memorialize the Congress of the United States to strongly support voluntary, individual, unorganized, and non-mandatory prayer in the public schools of this nation; and be it further.

Resolved, That a copy of this resolution be transmitted to the President of the United States Senate, the Speaker of the United States House of Representatives, and the members of the Michigan congressional delegation.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following reports of committees were submitted:

By Mr. SMITH, of New Hampshire, from the Committee on Environment and Public Works, with a amendment in the nature of a substitute:

S. 1691: A bill to amend the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act to authorize programs for predisaster mitigation, to streamline the administration of disaster relief, to control the Federal costs of disaster assistance, and for other purposes (Rept. No. 106-295).

By Mr. Smith, of New Hampshire, from the Committee on Environment and Public Works, without amendment:

H.R. 707: A bill to amend the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act to authorize a program for predisaster mitigation, to streamline the administration of disaster relief, to control the Federal costs of disaster assistance, and for other purposes.

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

The following bills and joint resolutions were introduced, read the first and second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

By Mr. LOTT (for himself, Mr. MURKOWSKI, and Mr. VOINOVICH):